

SOCIAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY, EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST, BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL ACTION, DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
MISSIONS BUILDING 222 DOWNEY AVENUE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

PRICE: \$1.00 PER YEAR INCLUDES SOCIAL ACTION RESEARCH BULLETIN

NO. 7 VOL. V

JULY-AUGUST 1942

D.P.F. - F.O.R. MERGER PROPOSED

By action of the executive committee the membership of the Disciples Peace Fellowship will be polled on the question of affiliation with the Fellowship of Reconciliation. This decision was reached on May 22, following extended negotiations between Harold L. Lunger, president of the D.P.F. and A. J. Muste, general secretary of the F.O.R.

The basis of the merger, if approved by two-thirds of the membership, will be that the Disciples Peace Fellowship become the Disciples of Christ section of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and that for Disciples membership in one will automatically mean membership in the other unless otherwise specified by the individual. The D.P.F. will raise its membership dues to \$2.00 per year to conform to the F.O.R. dues and will remit to the F.O.R. \$1.00 of each membership fee. The F.O.R. in turn will send \$1.00 of each membership fee received from Disciples applying to it for membership to the D.P.F. Each organization will recognize the other as an affiliate. Disciples will receive the publications of both organizations, Fellowship, the monthly journal of the F.O.R., and Social Action Newsletter, which is sent to all members of the D.P.F.

The Disciples Peace Fellowship was organized at the International Convention at San Antonio, Texas in October 1935. It numbers among its members some of the most influential leaders in the brotherhood and its after-session meetings at International Conventions have featured some of the most creative discussions of our national gatherings. Originally organized to include both pacifists and non-pacifists, experience has shown that more and more the pacifists have taken the lead in the organization. With a few exceptions, those who hold membership in the D.P.F. are also members of the F.O.R. Merger will therefore be a step toward unity in the peace movement. Many of the peace fellowships of other religious bodies are taking this same step. The fact that F.O.R. is an international organization tends to give a sense of solidarity to the peace movement throughout the world. It is expected that this merger, if approved by the membership, will tend to strengthen the D.P.F. and to make it a more influential force in the life of the brotherhood.

A letter outlining the merger in detail has been sent to each member by Harold L. Lunger, President, with a post card for reply.

FRIENDS SERVICE GROUP TO AID JAPANESE STUDENTS

The American Friends Service Committee, that useful organization that seems always to be ready to meet any emergency and ready to accept any humanitarian task, no matter how great or how costly, has been asked by the War Relocation Authority to accept responsibility for relocating hundreds of Japanese students whose educational careers have been interrupted by the evacuation of Japanese from designated defense areas on the Pacific Coast. And with its usual faith and courage, the Friends Service Committee has accepted the task.

At a meeting in Chicago on May 29th, attended by representatives of Pacific Coast colleges and universities, representatives of Japanese students, of campus student organizations, and leaders of religious bodies, the problem was explored and plans made to meet the needs.

As explained by Pacific Coast educational leaders, the problem is to find places in mid-western and eastern colleges and universities for some 1000 or 1200 college students whose educational programs have been disrupted by orders for evacuation. Coast student organizations claim to have the names and addresses of 2500, including those in junior colleges and those now graduating from high school who want to go on to college. The University of Washington alone had 456 students of Japanese ancestry. The University of California, both at Berkeley and at Los Angeles, has large Japanese student groups. Nearly all Pacific Coast institutions have a Japanese student group. Most of these students are American citizens and are anxious to complete their education in order to be of service to the nation and to help their own people better to understand the situation in which they find themselves.

The problem is complicated by several factors. These young people are already in evacuation centers and camps. The War Relocation Authority wants to get them out into colleges and universities removed from defense areas. The fact that at present permits are given for only one year presents a difficulty. Another problem is that of securing admittance for them to colleges and universities in the mid-west and the east. Some school administrators fear the public reaction to Japanese students in their midst. In other instances, it is the sentiment of the community that

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DELAWARE CONFERENCE GROUP TO CARRY ON

On Friday, June 5, the Committee of Direction of the Commission to Study the Bases of a Just and Durable Peace met at the Gramercy Hotel, New York under the chairmanship of Mr. John Foster Dulles to weigh the results of the Delaware Conference and to plan a program for the months to come. Also present by invitation of the committee were the peace education leaders of the principal religious bodies holding membership in the Federal Council. Dr. Henry Smith Leiper, American secretary of the World Council of Churches, who had just arrived via Clipper from England was present and gave a report of conditions in Europe. He reported that the organizing committee of the British Council of Churches has been appointed and the belief is that the British Council will soon be a reality.

Reports made by Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk and the Rev. Bradford S. Abernethy, secretaries in charge of the work of the committee, indicated that the Delaware Conference report is having a wide distribution among the churches. The Commission to Study the Bases of a Just and Durable Peace is face to face with a decision as to the future of its work. Shall it be a commission simply to study and make the results of its study known to the religious and secular world or shall it undertake to promote the use of its findings throughout the churches? On this question there is difference of opinion. Some members of the commission feel that its principal function is one of research and analysis, making its findings known to the educational leaders of the church bodies and leaving to them the promotion of the program in local congregations. On the other hand, there is insistent demand from the churches themselves for guidance and for further information. Among the proposals which the committee had before it were, to publish a news bulletin giving new information concerning matters discussed at Delaware and reporting steps taken by other groups to bring about a just and durable peace; to develop a study guide to aid local discussion leaders in presenting and discussing the Delaware Conference report, and the issuance of new materials from time to time. Those who are acquainted with the effective writing of Mr. Dulles will welcome news that he is preparing a new pamphlet or book dealing with the peace terms. It is hoped that Dr. Van Kirk and Mr. Dulles will be able shortly to make a trip to Britain to discuss peace matters with religious leaders there and perhaps with certain influential religious leaders of other countries.

AMERICAN PREACHING IN WAR-TIME

With this issue of the NEWSLETTER will be found a copy of Information Service, published by the Federal Council's Department of Research and Information, containing an analysis of 454 sermons preached in the week following Pearl Harbor. The information contained in this study is of sufficient importance that we have felt justified in incurring the expense necessary to supply a copy to every reader of this Newsletter. The record of the American pulpit in the war thus far has been good. There has been little tendency to inspire hatred or to identify the will of the nation with the will of God. Let the church continue to be the church and fearlessly to proclaim its message.

TRAINMAN CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS IN TUBE CRASH

On Sunday night, April 26th some 200 persons crowded into a New York bound Hudson & Manhattan tube train after a day in the country. A few minutes later that train crashed 75 feet below the Hudson River in what newspapers called the worst wreck in the company's 33-year history. Rescue crews removed five dead and 56 severely injured passengers from the burning wreckage and 161 others were released after treatment. Wrecking crews worked ceaselessly to clear the tracks, but it was not expected that traffic could be resumed until Tuesday. On Monday, according to press reports, Hudson County, New Jersey officers, within whose jurisdiction the wreck occurred, arrested the motorman of the train, Louis A. Vierbuchen, and placed him in jail on charges of manslaughter and operating a public vehicle under the influence of liquor. A man's personal liberty to drink liquor stops short if he happens to be the engineer on a train, the motorman on a subway, the driver of a bus, or a truck, or an automobile on the highway. As a matter of fact, it stops short with all of us at the point where we have to do with the intricate and often deadly machines that play so great a part in our civilization.

WPB TO CUT LIQUOR OUTPUT TO MAKE RUBBER

The War Production Board announced on May 27th that production of distilled spirits would be cut 90% in order that the nation's stills might be put to the task of producing alcohol for use in the manufacture of synthetic rubber and other vital war materials. It is expected that a total of 540,000,000 gallons of alcohol will be produced in 1943, of which 240,000,000 gallons will come from distilleries now producing beverage liquors. The 10% of normal production not to be switched to the war program will come from small distilleries off the main transportation lines. Lest some assume that this means that the government is 'cracking down' on the liquor industry, it is announced that this will not interfere with the nation's drinking, since there are ample stocks in warehouses to meet the demand for three or four years ahead. At the war's end the distillery capacity of the nation will be perhaps double that of 1940.

CHICAGO CHURCH COUNCIL CONDEMNS DISCRIMINATION

On Friday, May 29th, the Commission on Interracial Relations of the Chicago Church Federation issued a statement vigorously condemning racial discrimination, especially against Negroes, in the matter of employment in defense industries and in the matter of segregating Negro blood in Red Cross blood banks. The resolution states:

"So long as we appeal by radio and newspapers for volunteers for the armed forces and then refuse, simply on the ground of race, to accept the proffered services of patriotic Negro youths, or call for gifts of blood and then insult the donors; so long as we refuse to permit Negroes even to make the sacrifice, not to speak of enjoying the privileges, of citizens - so long we demonstrate that we do not deserve a place of honor beside our great Oriental allies."

On May 29th Dr. John W. Studebaker, U.S. Commissioner of Education, announced that 433,000 men who would have been placed in Class I-A have been deferred because of illiteracy. Of these men at least 250,000, said Dr. Studebaker, are physically fit, but lack the education necessary to serve with American armed forces. Plans are now being made to supply the basic education necessary.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A., in session at Milwaukee on May 27 voted to ask President Roosevelt to close immediately all distilleries and breweries for the duration of the war.

Though the Bureau of Internal Revenue no longer issues reports on the amount of alcoholic liquors produced in this country, the last reports issued (June 1940) show that the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the District of Columbia has reached the astounding figure of 4.26 gallons per capita. Compared to the District of Columbia the state of Nevada is almost 'dry' territory. Its per capita liquor consumption is only 2.65 gallons. Illinois, including Chicago, drinks 1.64 gallons per capita, while New York gets away with a mere 1.35 gallons per capita. If the thousands of people in the District of Columbia who never taste liquor be subtracted from the total, it at once becomes evident that the per capita consumption for those who do drink must be substantially greater than even the amazing figure given. If the war is to be won by cool heads and sober minds we shall have to look elsewhere than to Washington for leadership. It is well for the American people to remember what liquor did to France.

An organization known as the Religious Film Association has been organized by representatives of 16 religious bodies to provide an exchange arrangement for the best educational and missionary films available in all the cooperating churches. The association will have headquarters in the building of the Federal Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York City, New York and will have as its executive secretary William L. Rogers, known through his work in the field of educational motion pictures with the Harmon Foundation and the International Council of Religious Education.

On their own initiative, young American-Japanese evacuees on their first Sunday behind the barbed wire at the center near Puyallup, Washington, organized their own Sunday school. That same Sunday the older folks attended a service conducted in Japanese and the younger people attended a service conducted in English. These services are sponsored by the Washington State Council of Churches and Christian Education. (Gospel Messenger)

The Commission on Aliens and Prisoners of War, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York, has published "The Churches and the Japanese in America," giving facts regarding the evacuation of the Japanese from defense areas and what the churches have done to aid. Price 10 cents.

The Committee on Conscientious Objectors of The United Christian Missionary Society, under the chairmanship of F. E. Davison, announces that considerable additional funds will be needed in order to settle all unpaid charges on account of men from our churches in Civilian Public Service camps on June 30th. These are young men from our churches, our young peoples' conferences, our schools and colleges who have asked to be classed as conscientious objectors and assigned to work of national importance because by "religious training and belief" they are unable to participate in war. This program was provided by Congress and is administered by the Selective Service Administration. The Civilian Public Service camps to which these young men are sent are organized, administered and supported by the American Friends Service Committee, the Brethren Service Committee, and the Mennonite Central Committee. We are co-operating with these agencies by attempting to provide for such men from our churches as have no means of support. The cost is approximately \$35 per month per man. The men in the camps are assigned to various types of work of national importance, ranging from soil conservation, forestry, fire-fighting, disease eradication, flood control, hospital service, to organizing disaster and bomb removal squads, and foreign service. At present more than 4,300 men are in camps throughout the United States. With the rapid expansion of the armed forces the number is increasing daily.

The following men from our churches were in camp on April 30th. Some 60-odd others are classed as members of "the Church of Christ" some of whom may belong to us.

Oliver W. Petty, Corvallis, Oregon
 Bill Read, Iola, Kansas
 Howard W. Suits, Richmond, Indiana
 Charles S. Akers, Sonora, Kentucky
 Herbert Moore, Cutler, Indiana
 Isaac Errett Reid, Louisville, Kentucky
 Earl E. Rhodes, Wilson, North Carolina
 J. Richard Wager, Wauseon, Ohio
 Ronald Gordley, Mount Sterling, Illinois
 Harold C. Bruss, Marion, Indiana
 Fred C. Murphy, Kokomo, Indiana
 George E. Mitchell, Prairie Green, Illinois
 Donald E. Ziebart, Wellington, Illinois
 Richard E. Jay, Fort Worth, Texas
 John L. Danke, Edinburg, Texas
 Edgar W. Johnson, Enid, Oklahoma
 Lewis Bridges, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Lewis Watkins, Detroit, Michigan
 Willard Weygant, Delton, Michigan
 Claude Price, Jr., Bremerton, Washington
 Wendell F. Taylor, Cheney, Washington
 Bruce Dean, Alhambra, California
 Douglas C. Strain, Alhambra, California
 Thomas M. Holt, Salem, Oregon
 Norman M. Haskell, Santa Ana, California
 John Benjamin Eaton, Dexter, Oregon
 Ray Charlesworth, Toledo, Oregon
 Ivan Grigsby, Santa Barbara, California

Some of these young men are paying their own camp expenses with the help of their family. Some are paying part of their own way. But many
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PEACE GROUPS TO BUY NON-DEFENSE TREASURY BONDS

One of the most difficult problems that pacifists face is the question of what to do about buying war bonds and war savings stamps. Business and professional men have not found it easy to refuse such purchases and employed persons have frequently been put to a disadvantage when canvassed by fellow-workers or invited by management to make pay-roll allotments for defense bonds.

Under the leadership of a group of Philadelphia Quakers and others, a plan has been worked out under which a non-profit corporation will be organized to buy U.S. treasury bills, certificates of indebtedness, treasury notes, and treasury bonds not designated as "war issues," and using these as security, distribute its own certificates of participation in smaller amounts. Under date of June 2, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau wrote Paul Comly French, "This plan is agreeable to us and will, we believe, satisfy the American people that the groups you represent are contributing to the support of the Government in ways their consciences will permit...."

Pacifists will thus be able to buy debentures, not of the government, but of their own corporation, which will, in turn, invest not in war bonds or stamps but in the regular government issues. We fully appreciate the high motives back of this movement, but it must be pointed out that in a time of total war there is no essential difference between governmental issues designated as "war issues" and the ordinary treasury issues, since all funds are available for war purposes. The greatest danger pacifists face is that in seeking a satisfactory solution to their dilemma they may give their whole case away.

DISCIPLE NEGRO LEADERS TO TUSKEGEE EXPERIMENT

Through the Division of Home Missions of The United Christian Missionary Society, Prof. W. O. Gill, of Jarvis Christian College, and Mr. William F. Fox, Jr., a graduate student of the University of Chicago will serve during the summer as members of Tuskegee Institute's "Movable School." Under this plan a group of selected workers moves into a community, secures the cooperation of its Negro citizens and with their aid studies the social and religious needs of the community and attempts to inspire the people to do something to better their own condition. The group will seek to bring together religious leaders, public school teachers, leaders of civic, fraternal and farm organizations, to improve conditions in the Negro community. Various types of religious training and service will be provided by the visitors. It is expected to reach a number of communities with this service during the summer. The work is under the direction of Dr. Harry Richardson, chaplain of the Institute. Prof. Gill expects to institute a similar program in communities adjacent to Jarvis Christian College. In addition to the two persons serving in the "Movable School," Mr. E. H. Culpepper, a member of this year's graduating class at Jarvis, is spending his second summer as a worker among Negro migrants under the Home Missions Council. Mr. Culpepper was ordained to the ministry on Sunday, April 27 by Mr. R. H. Peoples and members of the Jarvis faculty.

C.O. Committee Needs Funds (continued)

of them cannot pay anything. Yet they are bearing a witness to the sacredness of Christian conscience. They are spiritual pioneers who are giving their young lives for a testimony to peace. To April 30th these young men had paid and had paid for them, \$3,220.52. There was still owing the camp operating agencies on their behalf \$2,100.48, of which \$804.95 was due to the American Friends Service Committee, \$1,243.03 to the Brethren Service Committee, and \$52.50 to the Mennonite Central Committee. These amounts will be increased by something like \$1,050 by June 30, plus accrued charges on men now being assigned to camp. At least a dozen new men were due to report in camp not later than June 2. It is, therefore, obvious that the committee will need something like \$3,600 to meet charges to June 30. Of this amount about one-half is now in hand. Contributors of \$25 or more will receive Civilian Public Service Certificates. The Disciples Peace Fellowship is sponsoring a program of Civilian Service stamps in one dollar and fifty cent denominations for the benefit of the fund. Make all contributions to The Conscientious Objector Committee, 222 Downey Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Group to aid Japanese Students (continued)

makes the situation difficult. In others the presence of plants engaged on defense work prevents their being accepted. Many of these students come from families which were engaged either in farming or in small business. The evacuation order has destroyed their economic foundation. Consequently many will need not only a college that will receive them, but also either financial assistance or opportunities for self-help. There is hope that in some instances the government may permit students to be domiciled with families while attending school. A careful survey is to be made of the number of students affected, their academic standing, character, adaptability, loyalty, etc., as a basis on which to approach colleges and universities on the question of accepting a quota of these students. It is felt that if this service is rendered as a Christian service it will provide an opportunity to interpret Christianity and democracy to these Japanese-Americans in understandable terms.

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